



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

## 9.0 General Overview of Westcoast HMS Fisheries: Russ Vetter

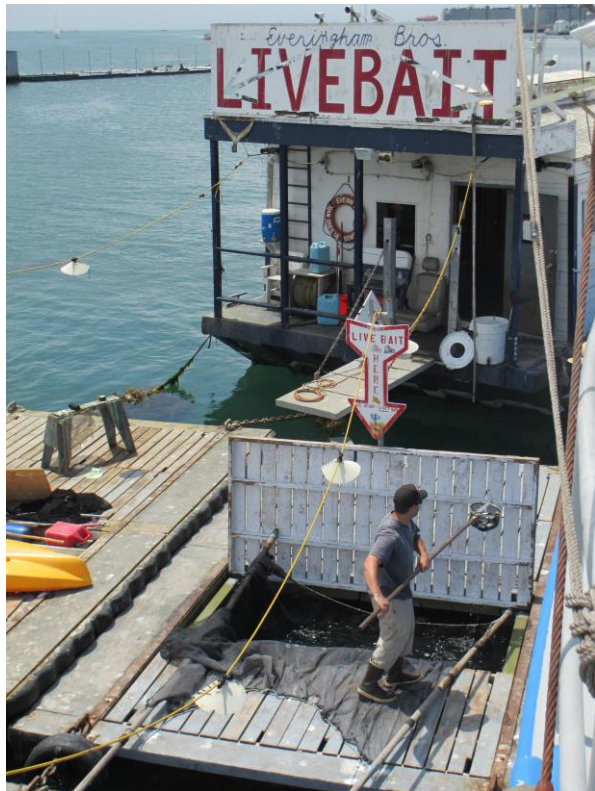
A. HMS (Highly Migratory Species) are typically high value and high volume fisheries that are what most folks think of when thinking of fish for the dinner table. Bluefin tuna, Swordfish, Albacore, Shark sp. and the Tropical Tunas command high prices and provide fresh, frozen, dried and canned products.

B. Sharks, the shark fin trade and shark conservation are an area of increasing worldwide concern.

C. Historically Bycatch has been a major concern for HMS fisheries. NMFS has engaged in conservation efforts that have achieved US conservation goals at the expense of US economic interests and have in some cases exported conservation problems as well as economic benefits to foreign fleets, while importing vast quantities of foreign HMS products, limiting US conservation influence: “the Transfer Effect”.

D. In the context of this review on Data and Data Management, withdrawal from international HMS fisheries has degraded access to observer data, landings data, bycatch data and degraded US leadership roles in data management and synthesis.

# Live bait fisheries: albacore pole and line, recreational





# Dead bait fisheries: Longline





## No bait fisheries: swordfish harpoon, drift gillnet, purse seine, albacore troll



## Stayin' alive fisheries:





## Historic and Current Bycatch Issues:

Tuna-Dolphin Purse Seine Interactions

Purse Seine FAD Fishing and Shark Bycatch

Longline and Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle, Shark and Billfish Bycatch

Drift Gill Net and Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle and Shark Interactions

## Current Successes:

MSC Certified Northern Albacore Fisheries

Swordfish Bycatch Mitigation Research





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## **9.0 General Overview of SWFSC HMS Fisheries Staffing and Support: Russ Vetter**

On the west coast NMFS currently has 3 FTE's devoted to fishery independent biological research in support of tuna, billfish and shark assessments, Kohin, Dewar and Wraith.

Currently there are two Fishery Independent surveys of limited scope:

- HMS Longline Survey

- Juvenile Thresher Shark Survey

Currently there is one area of cooperative bycatch research

- Deep Daytime Longline for Swordfish

Currently there is 1 FTE for Fisheries Monitoring, Childers. This is a historic low and insufficient to meet current treaty obligations, MSRA obligations, conservation mandates and the legal mandates associated with archiving and serving of data.



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Data streams:

# HMS Biology Program Supervisor: Kohin 4 FTE's , 5 recent vacancies

HMS Research Surveys:  
HMS Shark Survey  
Juvenile Thresher Survey  
DDL Swordfish Survey  
Albacore Archival Tagging  
Satellite Tagging (TOPP)

Wraith

Biological Sampling:  
Observer Program  
Commercial Biological Sampling  
CPFV Sampling Program  
Length, Weight, Stomachs,  
Vertebrae, Otoliths, DNA

Snodgrass(contract)

State, Federal & International:  
Commercial Landings Data SPTT  
Albacore Log Book Data  
Albacore Port Sampling  
Logbook DGN  
Observer Program DGN

HMS Research: Supervisor Kohin

Genetic Stock ID

Genetics program

Age and Growth

Vacant, Wells, Kinney  
(contract)

Trophic Ecology

Preti (contract)

Satellite Tagging

Sippel (contract)

HMS monitoring:  
Supervisor Childers

Data Entry

Arafar (contract)

sample archive management

Vacant (Merge with other programs??)

cruise data management

Vacant & Wraith

Fisheries data base management

Vacant, vacant, vacant, Gu (contract)

Synthesis and analysis

Stock Structure  
Migration Movement

Dewar & Genetics program

Fishery independent  
Trends in abundance

Kohin

Vital Rates

vacant

Trophic Ecology

vacant

Fishery dependent  
Trends in abundance

Childers, Suter (contract)

Climate Effects

Teo, and Fisheries  
Oceanography



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Purple=vacant

Red =contract

green =other discipline group